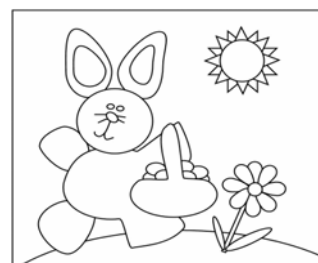
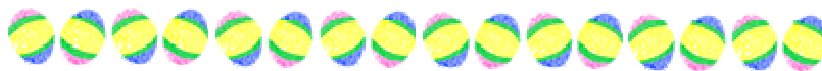


Serving Parents
and Providers in
Cherokee,
DeKalb, Jack-
son and Mar-
shall counties

Childcare Resource Network Newsletter for April 2009



Child Abuse Prevention Definitions and Data

Child abuse is defined by the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act as any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker that results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse, or exploitation, or an act or failure to act that presents an imminent risk of serious harm or neglect.

In the United States in 2001, over one million children were victims of abuse and neglect. In the state of Alabama in 2004, approximately 10,110 children were victims of abuse and neglect.

The Costs of Child Abuse and Neglect vs. Child Abuse Prevention: Alabama's Experience.
Center for Business and Economic Research/
The University of Alabama for Alabama Children's Trust Fund.



Safe Day Care—What Parents Want

When parents leave their children in your care, they want to feel that the child is safe, cared for and enjoying learning. It is more important than ever for care givers to reassure parents and to work hard at protecting, loving, and teaching their children. There are many options for care in our communities and we all want to ensure that our customers (parents) feel that they have the very best care for their children at our center.

As day care providers, encourage parents to check your license and any accreditations that you have. Suggest that they call the state licensing bureau to assure that your license is up to date and that you don't have any complaints against your facility.

Be sure to take parents on a tour of the facility and suggest that they talk with other

parents about why they bring their children there, ...and...be sure to encourage them to drop by unannounced to check on their children so they can observe an average day. Never deny a parent access to their child. Similarly, ensure that you have up-to-date contact information on the parent and that you may reach them or a family member if needed. Be sure to update these regularly in case of an emergency.

When showing a parent around, be aware that they will be observing how teachers socialize with the children and if they participate in the lessons and games, or if they just stand by and watch. Are the teachers cheerful or bored? Are the children in your daycare busy, happy, and clean?

Is your day care clean and do your teachers wash their hands and the children's hands regularly? Do the children look clean and happy? Are there unsafe substances sitting around classrooms (hand sanitizer or Lysol spray)? These are a no-no around young children. Show parents safety features like smoke alarms, etc.

Discuss security measures with parents to make sure that they feel everything about your drop-off and pick-up procedures is satisfactory and safe. Check periodically to ensure that policies are being followed exactly even in your absence.

Finally, remember that the parent is your employer and your partner in caring for her child and she should feel happy and secure about leaving her child with you.

Our color this month
is YELLOW!

Special Points of Interest

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

National Garden Month

National Poetry Month

Week of the Young Child

National Library Week

Reading is Fun Week

Be Kind to Animals Week

Teacher Appreciation Week

National TV Turnoff Week

National Playground Safety Week

Palm Sunday

Easter

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Volume 2, Issue 4

Editor: Myra Holt

April 2009 Training Schedule and Presenters

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Tuesday, April 14—Leslie Guthrie at the Pheroba Ann Thomas Resource Library in Fort Payne. **DHR Category: Health, Safety, and Universal Precautions OR Quality Child Care.**

Tuesday, April 28 - Caregiver Swap—Now is your chance to bring YOUR ideas to share with other caregivers. This can include craft ideas, children's recipes, tips for record-keeping, games, finger plays, etc. Each person who brings an idea will receive a gift!

We must limit participation to the first 30 registrations we receive. There will be a limit of TWO participants per child care facility. The class meets 6:30 to 8:30 at the Guntersville CDC Training, 1648 O'Brig Avenue, Guntersville. **DHR Category: Quality Child Care OR Child Development.**

Thursday, April 16—Elizabeth Wheatley, Director of the DeKalb County Children's Advocacy Center will present, "Child Abuse Awareness: Indicators and Reporting." This informative presentation will teach caregivers how to recognize and report abuse in children. The class meets from 6:30 until 8:30 pm

Thursday, April 30—Caregiver Swap—(Please see April 28 description). There will be a limit of TWO participants per child care facility. The class meets 6:30 to 8:30 at the Pheroba Ann Thomas Resource Library, Fort Payne. **DHR Category: Quality Child Care OR Child Development.**

CRN Training Guidelines

You must register at least one week prior to the training you wish to attend, but please call to check numbers before you give up!

Four Ways to Register:

- **Call us at (256)845-8238, leave your name and phone number, and we will return your call.**
- **FAX your registration to us at (256)845-6731. Then call to verify receipt.**
- **Email your registration to Judy Davidson.**
- **Mail your registration to Judy Davidson at CRN.**
- **Contact info on the last page of this newsletter**

served basis. Please let us know if you have to cancel your reservation so that we may add someone from the waiting list.

To receive credit, you must be on time, and stay for the entire class.

Please do not bring children to the workshops, as child care is not available.

CRN training is open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, political beliefs or religion. If your attendance is hindered by participation fees, transportation, language, location, or any other reason, you may contact the CRN office at (256)845-8238. As resources are available, attempts will be made to overcome obstacles that hinder attendance.

If you have requests for a specific training, please notify us. We will investigate the possibility and contact you.

Registrations are on a first come, first



If you have requests for a specific training, please notify us.

Volume 2, Issue 4

Tips for Teachers

Hand Sanitizers:

While there are several opinions on the use of alcohol based hand sanitizers, the facts are that several children have gotten alcohol poisoning from ingesting them, and that Alabama Licensing workers require that if they are used in a classroom that they be kept under lock and key.

Children are naturally curious. They learn by touching, feeling, smelling and tasting. When small children use hand sanitizers, they want to taste them. It takes only a small amount of sanitizer to poison a small child because of the alcohol content. Some

are more than 70% alcohol. A child who has had an overdose of hand sanitizer has symptoms like a drunken person. The child becomes lethargic and incoherent. Their speech can become slurred. If they get a big enough dose of the hand sanitizer, they can die.

The New England Journal of Medicine reported that a Maryland prison inmate drank Purell hand sanitizer and became extremely intoxicated. The Poison Control Center in Maryland was called and the prison discovered that Purell is 70% alcohol by volume. That would be approximately 120 proof in whiskey.

As anyone who works with or has children knows, a child can

easily get hold of anything and ingest it before anyone suspects, and if hand sanitizer is sitting around, it can be the thing that poisons them.

As stated at the beginning of this article, many are saying that hand sanitizers are not safe for use with small children. Our licensing workers consider them a hazardous substance that needs to be kept locked up. Maybe a few germs are better than a poisoned child. Maybe hand washing with soap and water needs to be more frequent to prevent illness. Be sure to check with your licensing worker for exact requirements in your area.

2009 Associated Content, Health and Wellness.
<http://www.associatedcontent.com>



National Library Week is the second week of April

Science Corner - It's Time for Planting!

Materials:

Seeds- (check with the seller to be sure that they grow rapidly). Most children don't have a lot of patience. Grass seed and lettuce seeds grow quickly, but bean seeds are easy to see sprouting. Be careful with seeds that are dusted with a color. This is usually pesticide, so be vigilant with hand washing and not allowing the children to put them in or near their mouths. Always supervise.

Containers- paper cups, paper bowls, shallow dishes or foil pans, small glass jars. Make use of what you can get together. You can also plant seeds in a sponge, cotton, a potato, etc.

Each child should have their

own "garden" to care for and observe. Let them go on a nature walk to discover interesting rocks and twigs to place in their garden to personalize it.

Some things that the class can plant and watch grow:

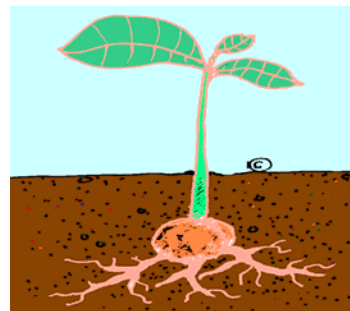
A carrot top in a shallow dish with water. (the top of a whole carrot, not one of the pre-cleaned baby carrots)

A **small** sweet potato in a glass jar with water. (Remember...you stick toothpicks around the middle and suspend it partway in the water. If too big, it won't stay.)

Plant summer bulbs in soil in a glass jar (keep in a dark room for five days until roots form, add water, then bring into the light for blooming.

You could also ask parents to send in plants that the class could tend and watch grow.

Cherry tomatoes can be planted upside down in a hole in the bottom of a plastic bucket with potting soil placed on top of it and hung outside or in a sunny window and when they ripen, the children can enjoy eating their produce that they grew themselves. The teacher will probably need to fertilize the cherry tomato a few times to ensure a good crop.



**CHILDCARE RE-
SOURCE
NETWORK
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Childcare Resource Network has been in the child care business since 1973. In 1993, Childcare Resource Network was incorporated as a child care management agency. From that time, Childcare Resource Network has offered training and resources to caregivers and parents in Cherokee, DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall counties. Now, we continue our service to this region as a Quality Enhancement Agency.

The quality of care that children receive during their pre-school years has been proven to have a great impact on their future success. Confident, well-trained caregivers are essential to quality child care. When caregivers and parents take advantage of the training opportunities and learning resources available to them at CRN, all children benefit.

THANK YOU

To all who attended my "retirement reception" and/or sent me cards, and blessed me with so many good words and hugs, I can't begin to tell you how much it all meant to me. I am so blessed to have worked with you over the years. Yes, I am the one who has been blessed. Working with you in the wonderful calling of caring for children has been a privilege and a blessing.

Thank you again for all these years, and for your very special retirement—and birthday—wishes.

Sincerely,

Pheroba Ann Thomas





April, 2009

Training Registration Form

Please call, mail, fax, or email this form to CRN.

Childcare Resource Network

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 	13	14 "Child Abuse Awareness" 6:30—8:30 pm Guntersville	15	16 "Child Abuse Awareness" 6:30—8:30 pm Fort Payne	17	18
19 Week Of The Young Child 	20	21 "Caregiver Swap" 6:30—8:30 pm Guntersville	22 Earth Day 	23 "Caregiver Swap" 6:30—8:30 pm Fort Payne	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Please include your contact information below.



Name:
Name of Center/Home:
Phone:

Cost	✓	Title / Location	Date
Free		Child Abuse Aware-Guntersville	April 14
Free		Child Abuse Aware-Ft. Payne	April 16
Free		"Caregiver Swap" G'ville.	April 21
Free		"Caregiver Swap" Ft. Payne	April 23

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